

BLUE MISSION BANOS

Supporting the Mission
Ocean Lighthouse in the
Baltic and North Sea Basins

EU MISSIONS
RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS



3rd MISSION ARENA 26-27 November 2024 Amsterdam

REGIONAL FOCUS ARENA 3

The Netherlands
BELGIUM
DENMARK | West
GERMANY | West
FRANCE | North





3rd MISSION ARENA
26-27 November 2024 | Amsterdam

RECONCILING OFFSHORE WIND AND BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

Are we on track to realise the European Green Deal?

26 November, 14:00-15:45
Hall 3

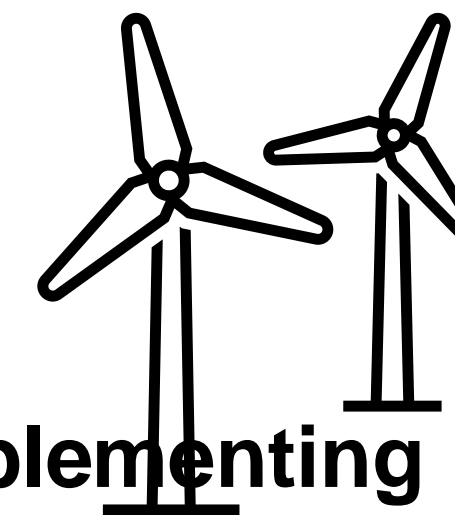


Our starting point

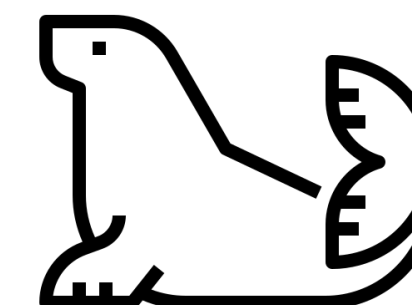




Workshop objectives



- Harness a greater understanding for the **challenges and conflicts in implementing and designing coherent policy.**
- Present **findings from the North Sea region** on how countries are dealing with the dilemma.
- Identify and discuss **potential solutions** to integrating biodiversity considerations into offshore wind.



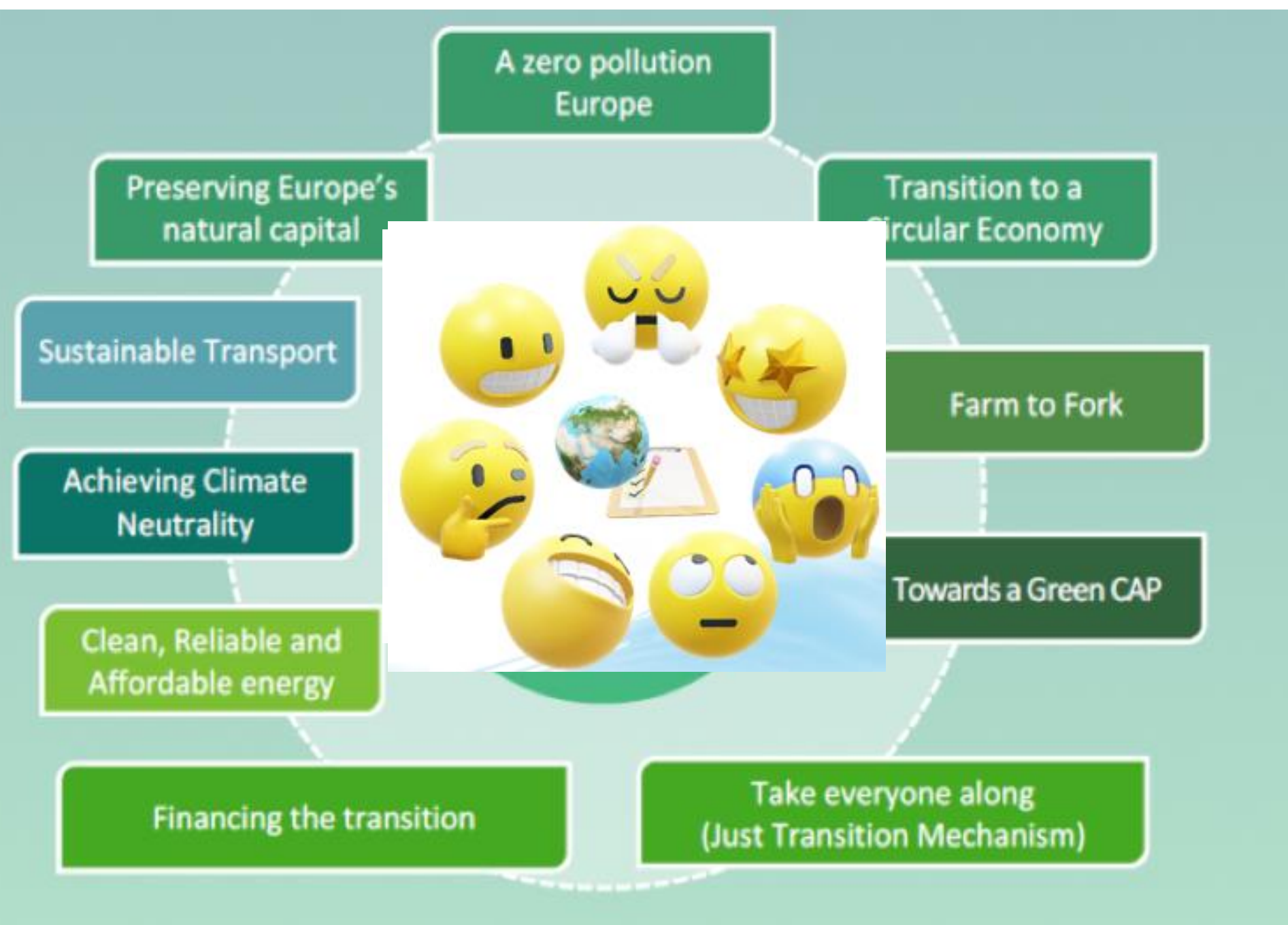


Plan for today

- A word from **CrossGov**
- Intervention on **the Legal Framework of Offshore Wind Expansion & Biodiversity Conservation**
- Discussion on the status quo in the North Sea – **Zooming in on Netherlands, Germany & Norway**
- Interactive group work to **exchange experiences and explore good practices**
- **Closing in plenary**

CrossGov  (2022-2025, <https://crossgov.eu>)

The European Green Deal – An ambitious package



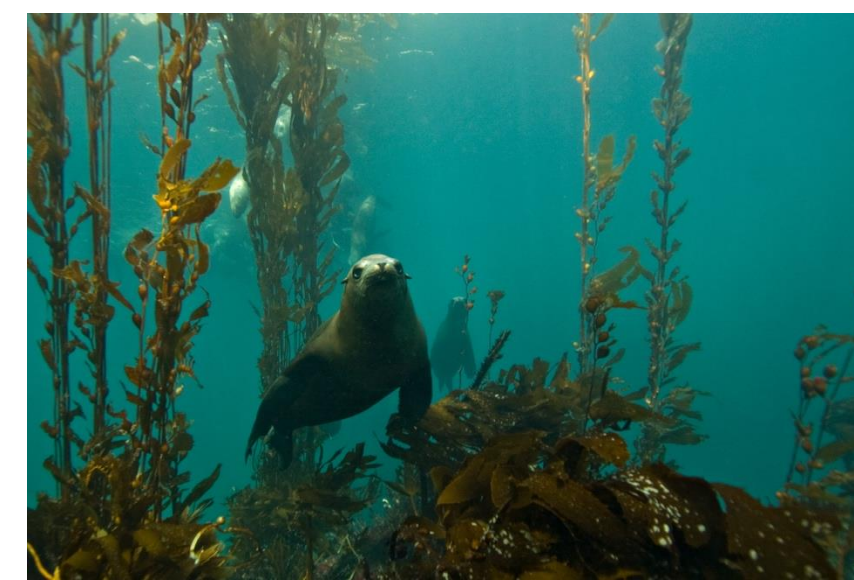
While working towards these ambitions, is there a:

- ❖ Win-Win-Win for all?
- ❖ Or do we make trade-offs and prioritizations, and create winners and losers?

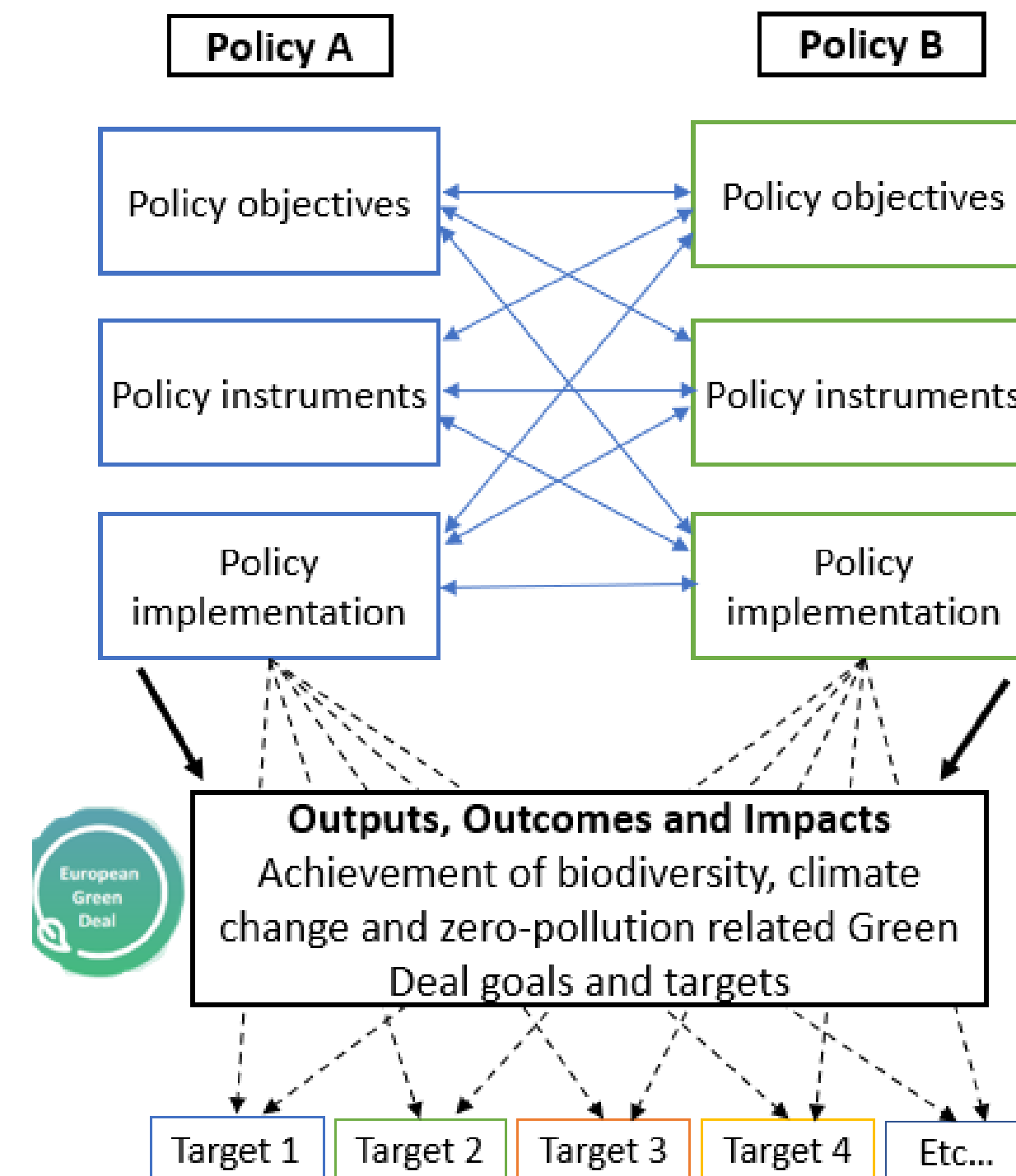
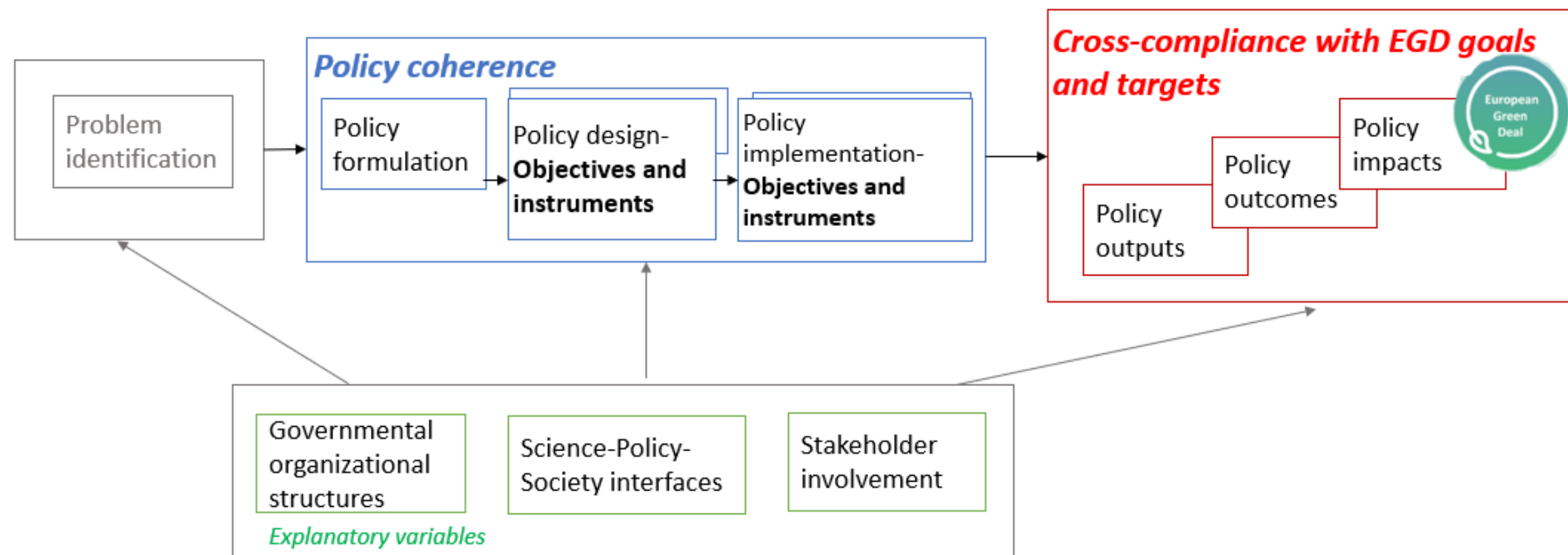




**Facing both a biodiversity and climate
change crisis, what level of
cross-compliance do we want?**



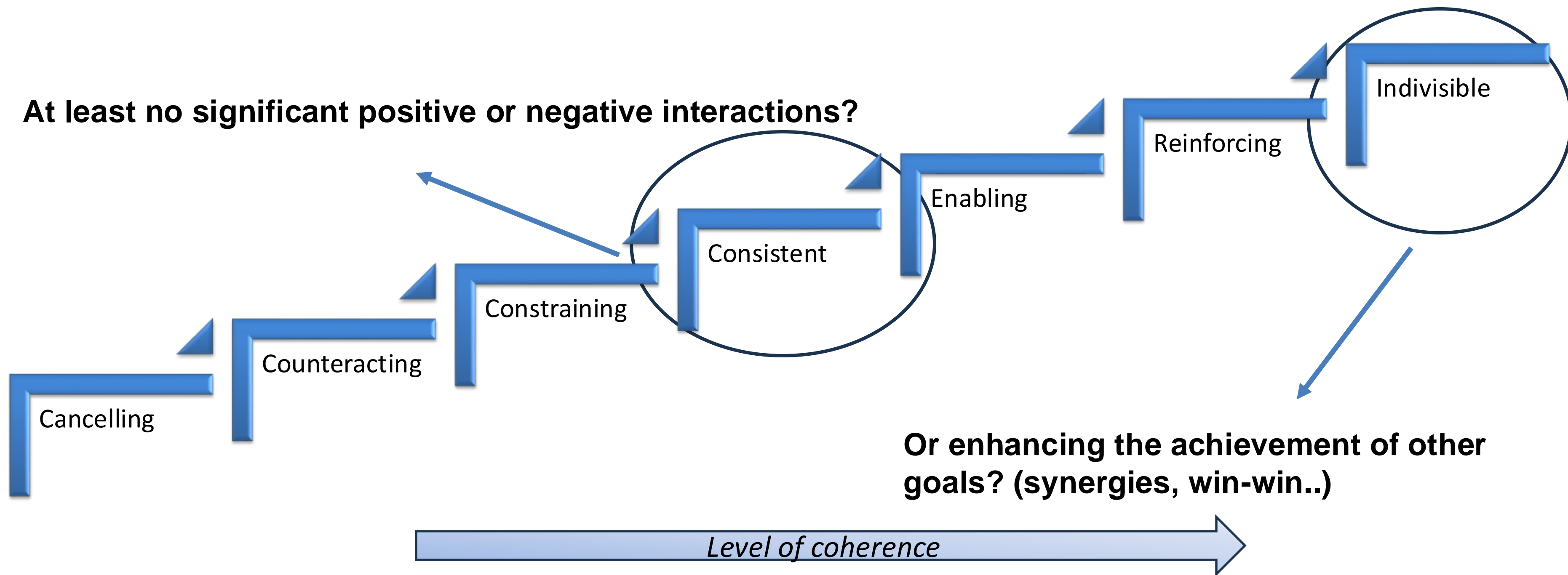
The CrossGov//Policy Coherence Evaluation Framework



**The higher the level of policy coherence,
... the more cross-compliance to expect?**

What level of policy coherence should we aim for?

At least no significant positive or negative interactions?

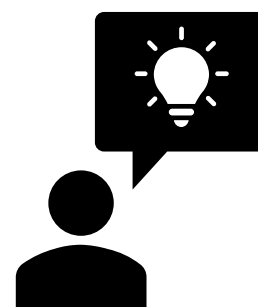


Why is there (in)coherence?



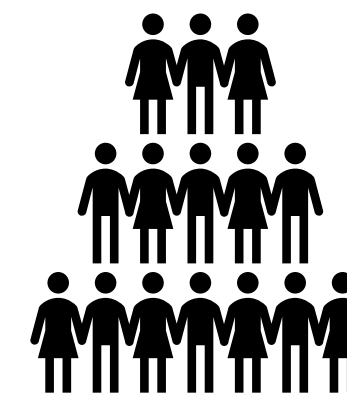
Governmental organizational structures

- Mandates and roles
- Coordination
- Power dynamics
- Resource allocation
- Territorial and temporal scales



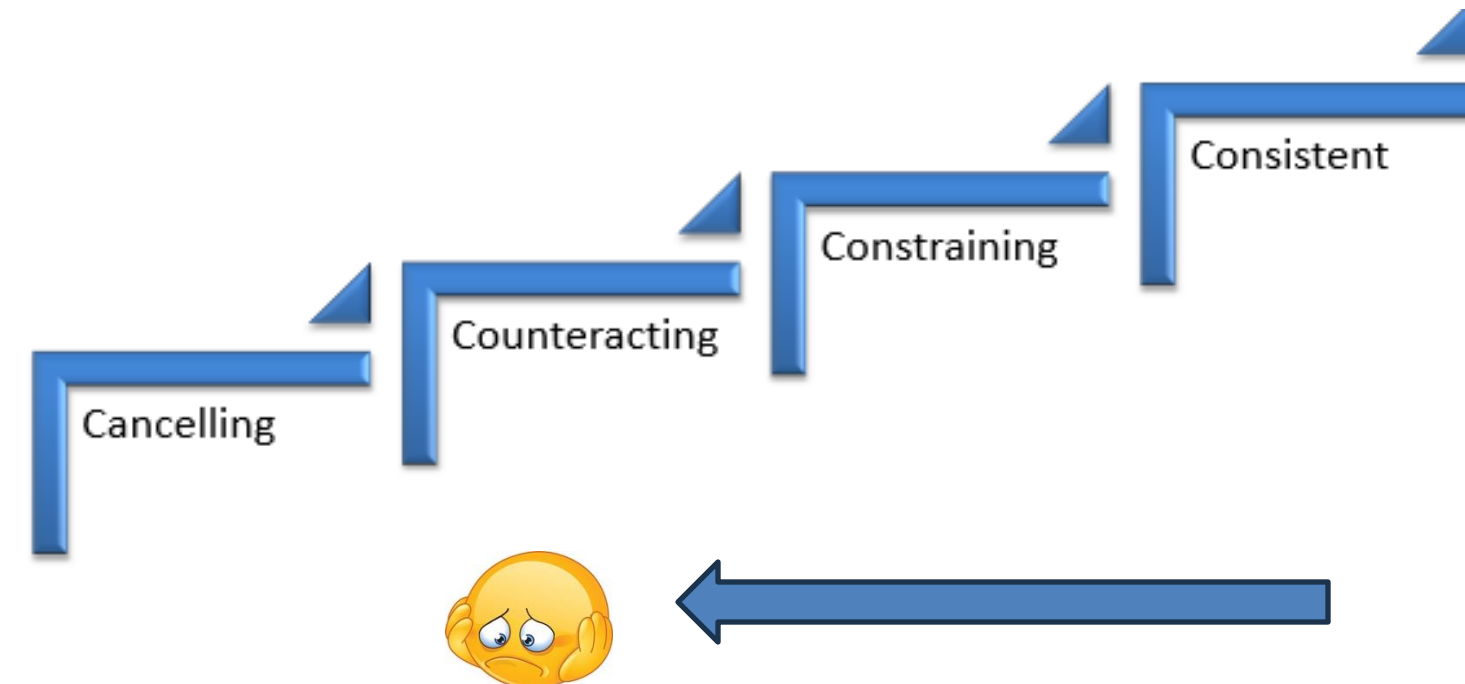
Science-policy interfaces

- Data fragmentation
- Monitoring and assessment systems
- Knowledge platforms



Stakeholder involvement

- Representation
- Power and fairness
- Effectiveness
- Processes and mechanisms





Offshore Wind Energy and Biodiversity



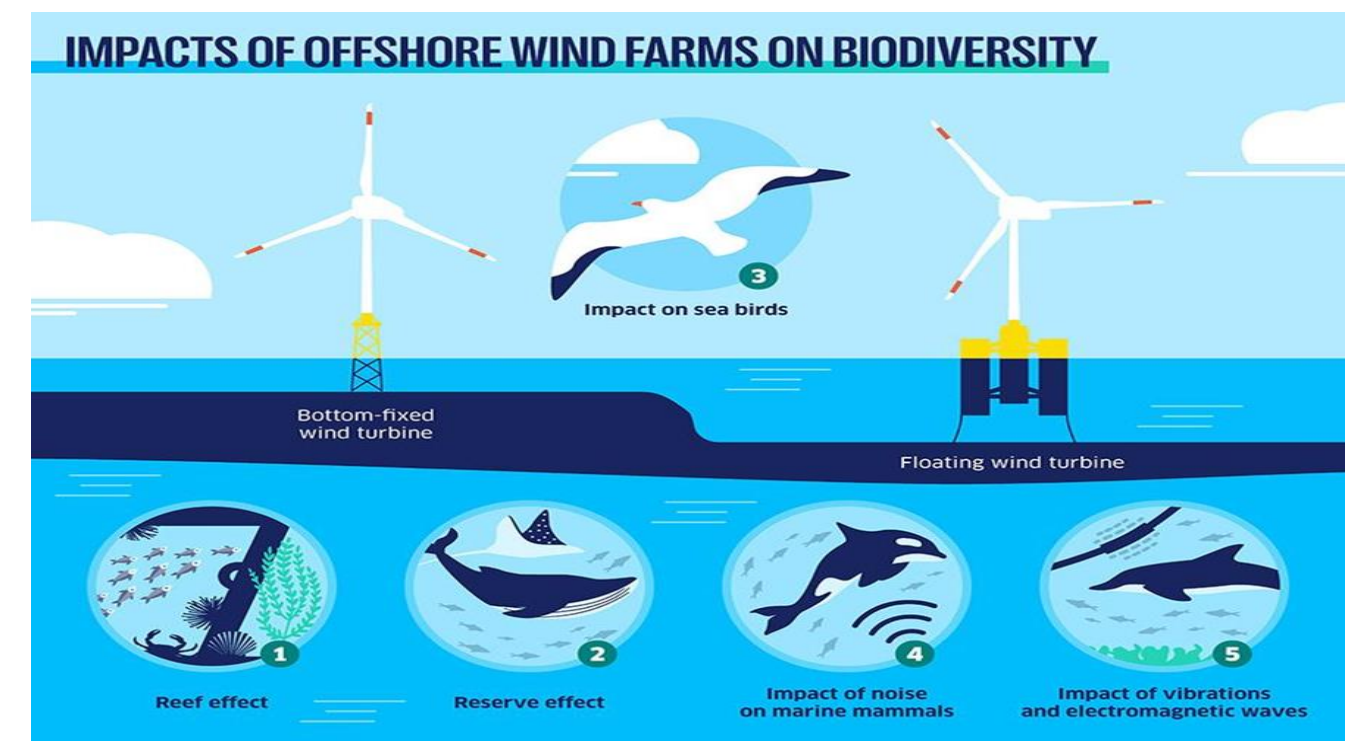
Ambitious **Green Deal goals** for biodiversity protection and the production of offshore renewable energy!

- Expansion of marine protected areas (30% coverage, 1/3 under strict protection) & nature restoration goals
- Renewable energy consumption 42.5% by 2030 (aspiration to reach 45%)
- Multiplied offshore wind energy capacity – 111GW by 2030 (in 2022 – 16,3 GW installed capacity)

- **Win – win** situation for climate, energy and biodiversity?

Challenges in the horizon:

- Offshore wind parks can disrupt the lifecycles of marine species / birds
- Size of wind turbine parks come with considerable spatial requirements
- Significant lack of knowledge regarding the status of marine biodiversity



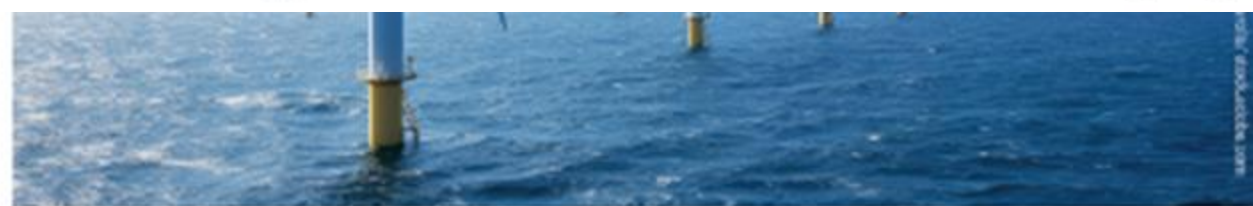


Pitfalls of the existing legal framework?



The development of offshore renewable energy in Europe yields ambiguous results, the European Court of Auditors warns in a report published today. EU action

"The Russian invasion of Ukraine has highlighted the importance of the EU's energy independence and our seas may be part of the solution," said Nikolaos Milionis, the ECA member who led the audit. *"But the EU's blue revolution should not be pursued at all costs: offshore renewables must not lead to any significant social or environmental damage."*



the auditors say, while much more needs to be done to make offshore renewable energy socio-economically and environmentally sustainable.

The Commission agrees that several aspects on marine biodiversity⁹ protection are still to be addressed to realize the full potential of the coexistence with offshore installations such as the knowledge gaps on potential impacts of ORE, the assessment of cumulative effects on biodiversity and the identification of the most appropriate solutions to mitigate impacts but also to increase synergies with biodiversity protection and restoration. The Commission has already provided support to Member States with its guidance document on wind energy developments and the EU nature legislation, including a wildlife sensitivity mapping manual accompanying the guidance.

EN 2023

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Special report
Offshore renewable
Ambitious plans for growth
remains a challenge

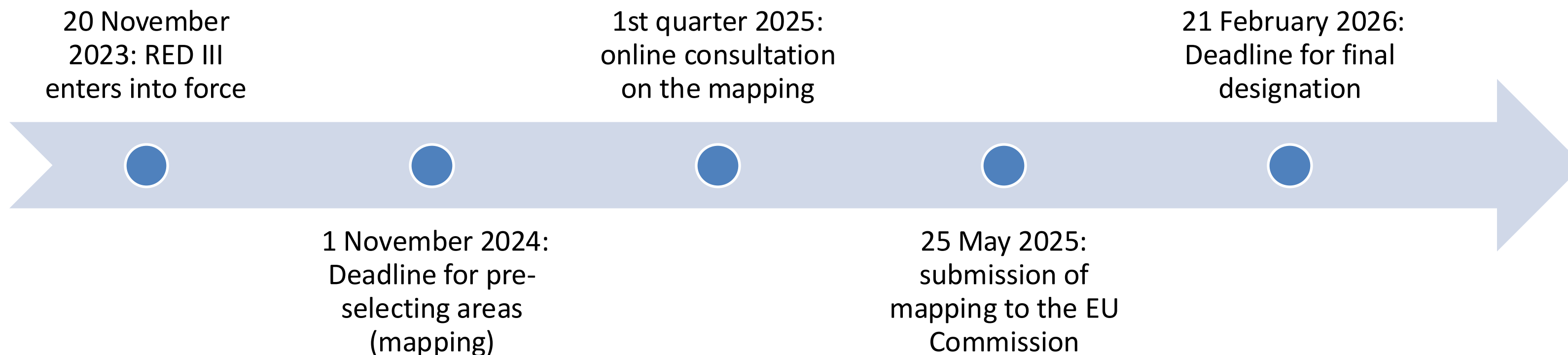




The simplification of permitting procedures under RED III



Major novelties under RED III: 1) the designation of dedicated Renewable Acceleration Areas,
2) presumption of overriding public interest nature of RE projects
3) exceptions from environmental obligations
4) possible financial compensation for projects harmful to Natura 2000 sites





The process for designating RAAs

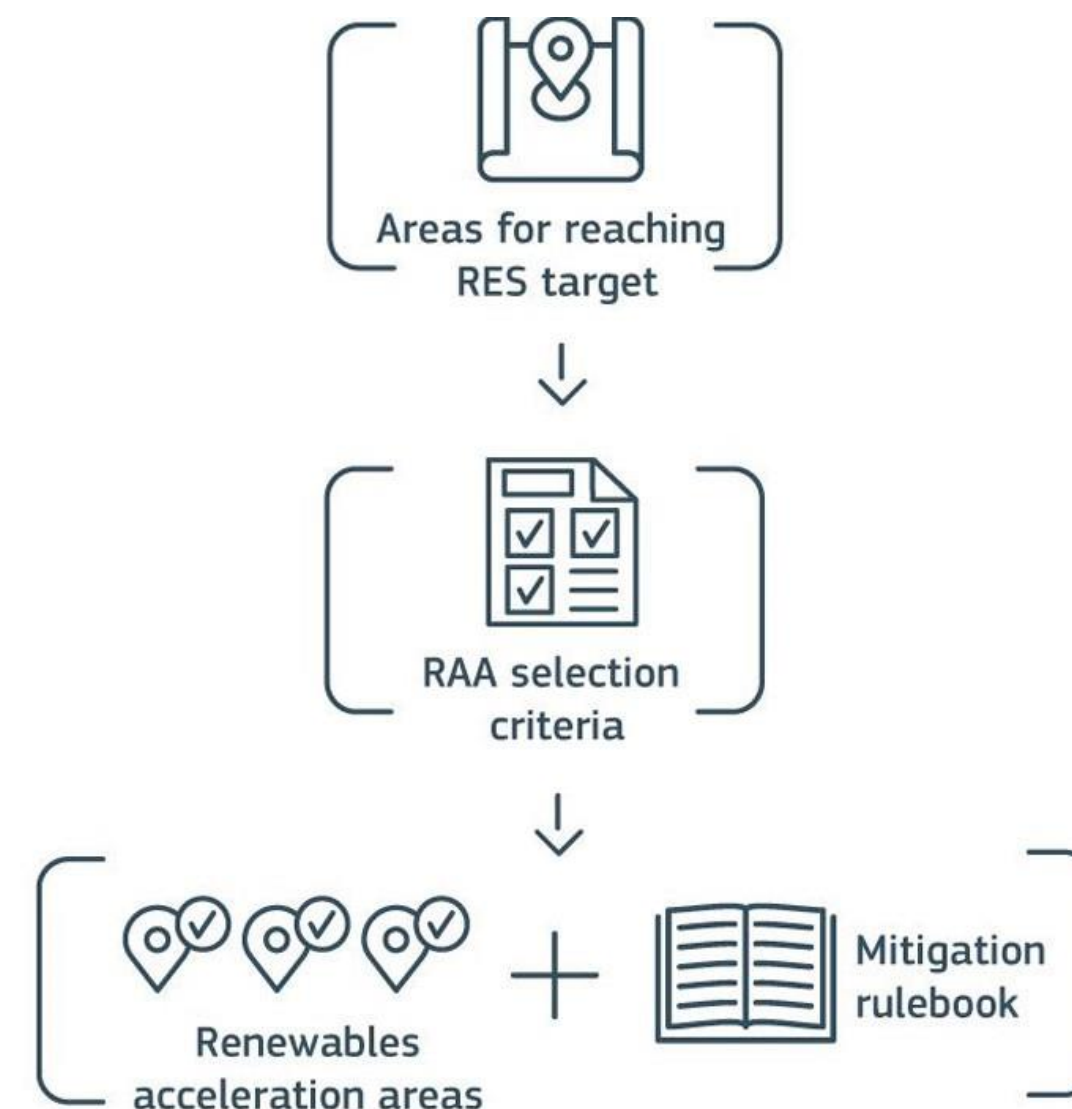


No environmental
considerations at
this stage!



RAAs for energy generation - excluded from Natura 2000 sites, MSFD designated areas, sensitive areas for mammals and migratory species

BUT RAAs for energy infrastructure and storage – can cross Natura 2000 sites



Strategic Environmental Assessment
(And Appropriate Assessment, if necessary)



Turbo-charging the energy transition: fast and furious?



Within RAAS

exempted from EIA, AA - RAA only subject to SEAs (within MS - EU level cumulative effects?)
screening for significant effects – implicit authorization (30 days & only positive outcome becomes public)

Both within and outside RAAs

no deliberate killing (12HD, 5BD) if “*all necessary mitigation measures*” are adopted – aim at “no significant harm to the **population** of species”

This prioritisation also reflected in the **Nature Restoration Law** (new Article 5a dedicated to RE)

The NRL provides for a derogation to the fulfilment of restoration obligations if it is justified by “*project of overriding public interest for which no less damaging alternative solutions are available*” or “*by a plan or project authorised in accordance with Article 6(4) of the Directive 92/43/EEC.*” (See, Article 5(8)(c) and (9)(c) NRL)

How can we achieve a balance between the need for speed and fairness?



North Sea - the Green Power Plant of Europe



THE ESBJERG DECLARATION on The North Sea as a Green Power Plant of Europe

The North Sea as a Green Power Plant of Europe will consist of **multiple connected offshore energy projects and hubs**, offshore wind production at massive scale as well as electricity and green hydrogen interconnectors. We aim for a cost-efficient buildout of offshore wind that will harvest the potential of the North Sea in the most beneficial way for both the connected countries and the European Union overall.

Together, we have set ambitious combined **targets for offshore wind of at least 65 GW by 2030**. Based on the North Sea as a Green Power Plant of Europe, together we aim to **more than double** our total capacity of offshore wind to **at least 150 GW by 2050, delivering more than half of capacity needed to reach EU climate neutrality** according to the European Commission's Strategy on Offshore Renewable Energy.





“State of play” in the North Sea – Zooming in on the Netherlands, Norway & Germany



Dr. Nikolaos Giannopoulos
Assistant Professor of
International and EU Law
Utrecht University

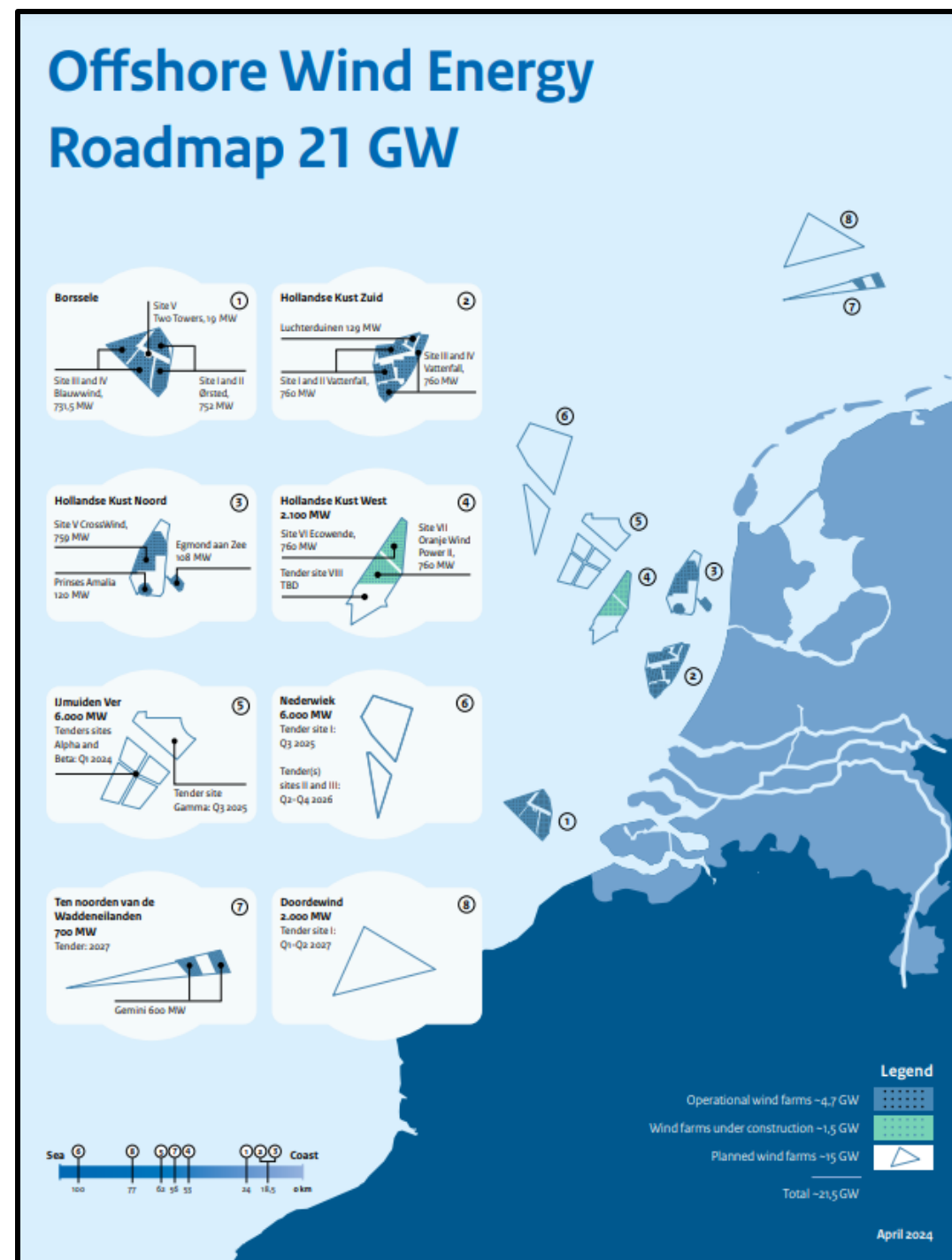
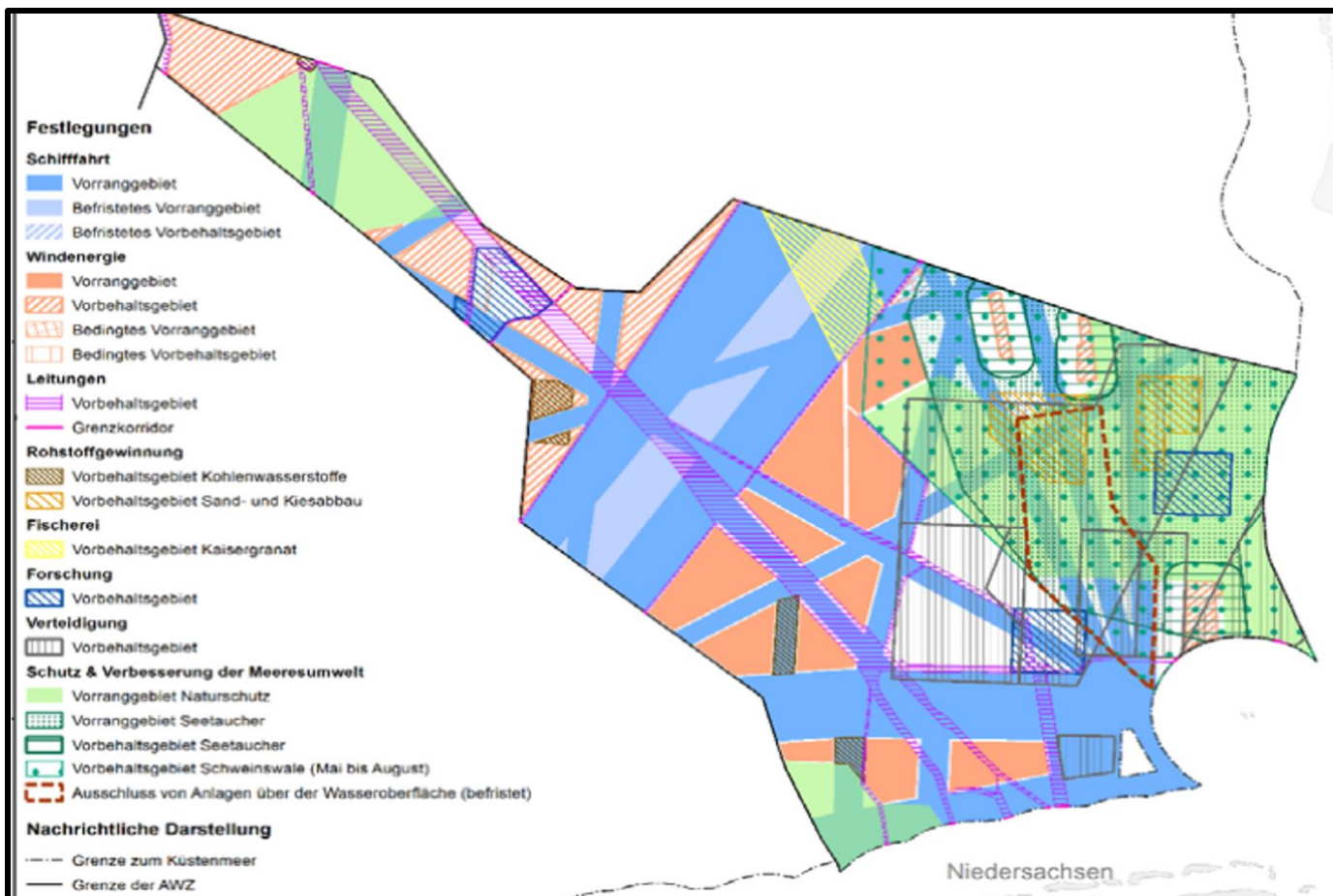


Maaïke Knol-Kauffman
Senior Researcher
Norwegian Institute for Water
Research (NIVA)



Benjamin Boteler
Senior Research Associate
Research Institute For
Sustainability (RIFS)

Germany, Netherlands & Norway





Breakout group sessions



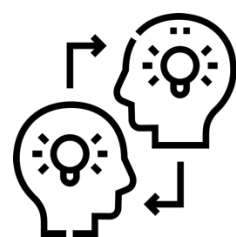
What **tools** do we have to ensure the integration of biodiversity considerations in wind energy projects? – Facilitator: **Nikolaos**



How can different **ministries and governmental organizations** ensure better **alignment and coordination**? – Facilitator: **Ben & Froukje**



What kind of **stakeholder involvement mechanisms** exist to ensure that those **representing 'biodiversity'** are heard and taken into consideration in the designation and permitting processes? - Facilitator: **Cristian & Dorothy**

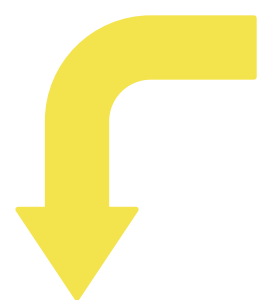


How do **authorities** coordinate the **creation of knowledge** about the impacts of offshore wind (e.g. for SEAs)? - Facilitator: **Maaïke**



Stay in touch!

Follow CrossGov on LinkedIn
to get updates on our policy
coherence MOOC and
upcoming workshops!



Training on coherence in marine policy is coming!

Training for policymakers, local authorities, researchers, and students will be organised by the CrossGov team in spring 2025. Formats include online webinars, on-site sessions, and a MOOC.



Funded by
the European Union